

Appl. No.: 09/711,619
Filed: November 13, 2000
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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 18, 20, 23, and 24 have been amended herein. No new matter has been added by amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the above amendments.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 18, and 20 have been amended to correct minor wording. Claims 8 and 23 have been amended to remove "Basmati rice" from the Markush group. As the group contains "rice," that term covers all rice whether Basmati rice or not. None of the amendments further limit the claims.

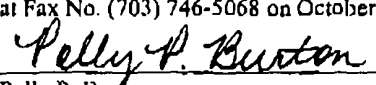
It is believed that the present claims are in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is solicited. If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for not addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for not addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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Customer No. 29122 ALSTON & BIRD LLP Bank of America Plaza 101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000 Charlotte, NC 28280-4000 Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200 Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260	CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner David H. Kruse at the US Patent and Trademark Office at Fax No. (703) 746-5068 on October 24, 2003.  Polly P. Burton
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